

**Statement by H.E. Mr. John Chen-Chung Deng,
Minister of Economic Affairs**

Madam Chair, Director-General, distinguished Members, let me start by thanking Kenya for its hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference. Holding this Conference in Africa is a good opportunity to highlight the growth potential of Africa. We concurred with Director-General Roberto Azevedo that we can take important steps that could help to improve the lives and prospects of our people and strengthen the multilateral trading system on which we all depend. We hope over the coming days we will be able to deliver something positive.

As a WTO Member for nearly 14 years, we have always seen the multilateral trading system as an impetus for global economic stability and a driving force for growth and prosperity for all countries. We therefore join in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the WTO and its achievements.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), for example, is nearing implementation. We call on all Members to complete their domestic ratification processes as soon as possible. We believe that an early entry into force of the TFA will benefit global trade while reassuring the global community's confidence in the multilateral trading system.

In addition, the completion of the ongoing negotiations on the Information Technology Agreement expansion is also very

welcome, as well as the progress made on the Environmental Goods Agreement. Such plurilateral approaches can strengthen and complement the multilateral trading system.

Although some progress has been made, the current impasse in the Doha Round negotiations is a disappointment. While recognizing the difficulties and challenges facing us, we need to reaffirm the importance of the development aspect in the negotiations, which is the foundation for our effort in the past 14 years. We should continue discussing DDA issues after Nairobi. But we could be more creative and focused on smaller package and working step by step towards the ultimate goal of Doha Round. The success of the TFA certainly is a useful reference. We can also learn from the process of ITA expansion and work together to reassure that the WTO is the driving force for promoting global trade and development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our hearty congratulations to both Liberia and Afghanistan on successfully completing their accessions to the WTO at this Conference.

To conclude, I would like to concur with His Excellency, Honorable Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya, said yesterday in his opening remarks, “the spirit that has allowed us to come together and achieve measures that many thought impossible should be present at this year’s 10th WTO Ministerial Conference. The hope for millions of people in increased prosperity on the basis of trade and exchange, is in

your hands.” So let us strive to meet the expectations of our people so that confidence in this multilateral trading system may endure for the benefit of the world economy and all WTO Members.

Thank you.